Educationally backward districts in Andhra Pradesh

655. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are still a few districts in Andhra Pradesh which are educationally backward;

(b) what is the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of those districts, when compared to national GER;

(c) how Government is planning to address the educational requirements of those districts;

(d) whether any emphasis is given to target the districts at the block level;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether it is also a fact that the Planning Commission has recommended for setting up one college in each of such districts in the country during the Eleventh Five Year plan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and what steps Government has taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (g) In the Independence Day Speech of the Prime Minister, it was mentioned that adequate numbers of colleges will be set up across the country especially in the districts where enrolment rates are low. Colleges will be set up in 370 districts in the country. The following districts have been identified as educationally backward in Andhra Pradesh:

1. Adilalad
2. Anantapur
3. East Godavari
4. Kurnool
5. Mahbubnagar
6. Medak
7. Nizamabad
8. Prakasam
9. Srikakulam
10. Vizianagaram
11. West Godavari

Some of the districts of Andhra Pradesh, which have been identified as educationally backward, may also benefit during the Eleventh Five Year plan period. The Eleventh Five Year plan is in the process of being finalized.

Deaths and serious injuries due to ragging

656. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, not withstanding several precautions taken and orders and directions issued to prevent ragging in higher educational institutions, serious